

Amendment

Attorney Docket No. 024295-260

Serial No. 10/071,891

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Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-28 remain in this application. Claims 2, 5, 6, 19, 20 and 22-24 have been withdrawn. Claims 10, 12, 15 and 25 have been amended.

The office identified claims directed to patentably distinct species of the claimed invention and, therefore, required election of a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits. Claims 1 and 15 are generic. Applicants affirm the election to prosecute the invention of claims wherein the viscosity reducer is a mineral seal oil and wherein the composition comprises from about 90% to 10% vegetable oil and 10% to 90% mineral seal oil. Claims 1, 3-4, 7-18, 21, and 25-28 are readable on the elected species. Accordingly, claims 2, 5-6, 19-20 and 22-24 have been withdrawn.

Claims 7, 12, 21 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Claims 12 and 25 have been amended to insert the missing temperature. Support for claims 12 and 25 as amended can be found at page 3, lines 24-26 of the application. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 be withdrawn as to these claims. The Office action indicates that claims 7 and 21 are not dependent on an appropriate claim. Applicants respectfully submit that the dependency of claims 7 and 21 is proper. For example, claim 7 is directed to a composition comprising corn oil and ethanol. Claim 7 specifically recites that the vegetable oil comprises corn oil and is dependent upon claim 6 which is dependent on claim 5 and specifies that the alcohol comprises ethanol. Claim 5 in turn is dependent on Claim 1 which generally recites the vegetable oil. Claim 21 is structured in a similar manner. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that claims 7 and 21 are in proper form and are in compliance with 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 7 and 21 be withdrawn.

Claims 1 and 3 stand rejected as being anticipated by JP 54-116018. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the following reasons. The '018 reference teaches a

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release agent composed of more than 75% petroleum lubricating fraction, less than 10% by weight of a vegetable fatty oil and/or a fatty acid of 12-18 carbons and up to 15 weight percent of grease of lithium soap. The lithium soap is a critical component in the '018 composition and is typical of the additives thought to be necessary in prior art release compositions. The claims of the present application, by contrast, are directed to a composition consisting essentially of a vegetable oil, viscosity reducer and optionally a fatty acid. Applicants respectfully submit that the '018 composition does not anticipate or render obvious the claims of the present application which use the transitional phrase "consisting essentially of" because the grease of lithium soap would affect the basic and novel characteristics of the coating composition.

Claims 4, 7-18, 21 and 25-28 stand rejected as being unpatentable over the '018 reference. As indicated above, the '018 reference is dependent upon soap formation to provide an effective release. Therefore, the presence of the lithium soap grease is essential to the composition set forth in the '018 reference and it would not be obvious to one skilled in the art to eliminate the lithium soap grease and expect that the mold release agent would still function properly.

The Office action further indicates that it would have been obvious to use corn oil as set forth in several dependent claims because the '018 reference discloses the use of vegetable fatty oils. Applicants respectfully submit that the '018 reference fails to disclose or suggest using a corn oil. Although other oils such as bean oil, rapeseed oil and palm oil have been used in the industry, corn oil has not been used in this application.

The Office action further indicates that the VOC and benzene content are expected to be similar to that claimed by the applicant because the coating compositions are similar. Applicants respectfully submit that the broad disclosure in the '018 reference fails to disclose or suggest a form release coating composition having the claimed VOC content or benzene content. Table 2 of the present application clearly shows the reduced VOC content of the form release coating compositions in accordance with the present invention. The '018 reference discloses a

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composition which would be closer to Example 5 in Table 2 which had a VOC content of 4.2. Likewise, Table 1 shows the differences in benzene content for coating compositions in accordance with the present invention as compared to a prior art composition (Example 5) which is similar to the '018 composition. Accordingly, for at least these reasons, applicants submit that claims 16 and 28 are patentable over the '018 reference.

Claim 9 recites a coating composition comprising approximately equal parts vegetable oil and mineral seal oil. The '018 composition, by contrast, discloses a release agent comprising greater than 75% by weight of a petroleum lubricating fraction and less than 10% by weight of a vegetable fatty oil. Therefore, for at least this reason as well, it is respectfully submitted that claim 9 is patentable over the '018 reference which fails to disclose or suggest a coating composition comprising approximately equal parts vegetable oil and mineral seal oil.

The Office action further indicates that the '018 composition is expected to be biodegradable because it is similar to the composition claimed by the applicant. Applicants respectfully submit that the '018 reference fails to disclose or suggest a biodegradable composition. Table 2 indicates that coating compositions in accordance with the present application are biodegradable whereas Example 5, which has a high petroleum content like '018 composition is not. Claim 15 has been amended to reflect the biodegradability results set forth in Table 2 by reciting the composition is at least about 50% vegetable oil. Support can be found in Examples 6 and 9. Furthermore, the lithium soap in the '018 composition would have a negative impact on biodegradability. Therefore, for at least this reason as well, applicants respectfully submit that claim 15 and the claims dependent thereon are patentable over the '018 reference.

Claim 10 has been amended to increase the lower limit to 1. Support can be found at page 4, lines 26-27 of the application as filed.

In light of the foregoing response, it is respectfully submitted that the claims now pending are patentably distinct from the references cited and are in condition for allowance.

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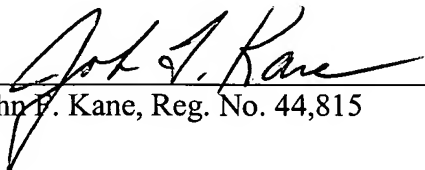
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Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of record is respectfully requested. If the examiner wishes to discuss any aspect of this response, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



John F. Kane, Reg. No. 44,815

THOMPSON HINE LLP
2000 Courthouse Plaza, N.E.
P.O. Box 8801
Dayton, Ohio 45401-8801
937-443-6816